



2FURY TIMES

2-508th PIR Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2017



Happy Independence to all our 2FURY Friends and Family! Task Force 2Fury celebrated freedom alongside our Iraqi partners as they celebrated the liberation of Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq. We are writing history with every passing day and TF 2FURY is a part of that history with our Iraqi Security Force counterparts. On 09 July 2017, the Government of Iraq declared Mosul cleared with ISIS defeated and the people of Mosul liberated. CSM Donaldson and I are extremely proud of every Paratrooper and family member of TF 2FURY, because without you, none of this would have been possible. Every member has played and will continue to play a vital role in the success of TF 2FURY in advising and assisting our partners in their continued operations to defeat ISIS. Our Paratroopers continue to show resolve and resiliency.

On the North American continent, 2Fury welcomed Paratroopers from the First Airborne Brigade of the Mexican Army. Brutal Company and Mexican Paratroopers conducted an early morning Company run on Ardennes so that they could get the full 82nd Airborne experience. Paratroopers then played futbol and football against each other on DeGlopper Field. All Paratroopers completed BAR, participated in familiarization fire of multiple weapons systems on range 44. 99 US Paratroopers and 100 Mexican Paratroopers exited two C-130Js over Sicily DZ with no injuries. We then conducted a wing exchange ceremony, where 2Fury Paratroopers pinned their counter-parts with US Airborne Wings. Then 81 Paratroopers traveled down to Chihuahua, Mexico where 2Fury and Mexican Paratroopers conducted their Airborne Operation on El Papalote DZ. Overall an incredible experience with a lasting partnership.



2Fury represents the 82nd Airborne Division in the 2017 SEDENA Exchange with our partnered Mexican Paratroopers



SPC Anderson flies the American Flag to celebrate Independence Day while driving through Mosul on the 4th of July

Seven months have passed since the unit deployed and time continues to fly by. Days pass and another week is down as the operational tempo slows in preparation for our next mission. The mission for TF 2FURY has not changed, we continue to advise and assist our Iraqi partners in their operations in Iraq. The mission set for our Iraqi partners has changed however, since they have successfully retaken the city of Mosul and brought peace, freedom, and democracy to the city. Their new task is that of bringing security and stability to the area. Imagine a city the size of Philadelphia with a population estimated at 1.8 million and covering approximately 141 square miles ranging from vast expanses of arid desert to densely populated urban centers to be secured. Mosul has been a city growing since Xenophon mentioned it in his Anabasis in 401 B.C. Since then it has expanded rapidly and is currently a mixture of ancient relics and modern urban centers, many of which we find common in the United States. The streets range from wide to extremely compact and narrow, the buildings large and dense, and the number of internally displaced persons is staggering.

Even at this stage of the deployment, TF 2FURY continues to add to its already All-Star roster. CPT Christopher Kust has come forward as an addition to the Battalion S3 shop. He has replaced CPT Jon Austin as the Forward S3 Operations Officer. CPT Kust has already hit the ground running establishing great rapport with our Iraqi counterparts. He is looking forward to continuing operations with our partners in Mosul and wherever the next fight will take them. CPT Austin, one of the Iron Captains, removed one of his many title hats and went back to TAA Filfayl to be with his Delta Company Paratroopers. He has reassumed the position as TAA Filfayl commander and Warden of the North. TF 2FURY also added CPT Jesse Coombs as the new Battalion S2 Officer in Charge. CPT Coombs has enthusiastically taken over the helm of the Battalion S2 shop from the Queen of Badush, CPT Hannah Heether. They are a vital entity to the continued support of our Iraqi counterparts. 1LT Jon Wood has seamlessly woven CPT Coombs into the S2 fold and CPT Heether made a guest appearance from the Falcon Brigade Headquarters to conduct her relief in place and share all the knowledge she's acquired over the last 7 months of operations.

Fury From The Sky!
Devils Never Die!

Task Force 2FURY Times
July Edition



CSM Donaldson congratulates CPT Austin after being presented an AAM-C during his farewell ceremony thanking him for his hard work as the Battalion Operations Officer

As we get closer to finishing our deployment, our time in Iraq nears to a bitter sweet end; we are closer to heading home, however, as each day passes it gives us less and less time to progress the mission. The timeline condenses everyday as the companies conduct their inventories to reconsolidate and reorganize their equipment for outload. It's a sign of going home; however, the task force has equipment spread out across five different locations so it draws a newfound appreciation to home-station Fort Bragg where the Battalion footprint is consolidated into one area. The company executive officers along with the battalion S-4 team work tirelessly preparing to redeploy while continuing to support the current operations and our Iraqi partners. CPT Daylen Morrow and SSG Hong-Seen Lai are the S4 team behind the scenes overseeing and conducting the movements of equipment between locations. It is no small task moving between locations while escorting local national convoys. It's a time intensive task, driving cross country between what is known as Kurdistan and Iraq. SSG Lai's time spent on the road is critical to the 2Fury Team and the mission as he escorts much needed supplies, equipment, and ammunition on a weekly basis.



COL Work addresses TF 2FURY about the Falcon Brigade's transition to its next objective after Mosul and future operations in Iraq

**Fury From The Sky!
Devils Never Die!**

Being on the road and putting in the miles is a mentally exhausting task that also encompasses a language barrier, forcing every member of the task force that is involved with this process to learn enough Arabic and Kurdish words and phrases to get around. Often times when words cannot be found, hand and arm signals become the universally accepted language. No matter the method of communication used, the end state is always met through the extraordinary action of the S4 team



Top: A panorama looking South East over Mosul
Bottom: A panorama looking south towards Bridge 5 into Old Mosul in the final days of the battle

With it being so close to the end of the deployment, all Soldiers remain vigilant against complacency. It is a natural occurrence for any person who develops a natural rhythm or routine in their daily lives. Because of this, leaders ensure that they continue to inspect their Soldiers and break up what may seem as monotonous days with different activities ranging from squad or platoon training events or physical fitness competitions to keep the situation fresh and mind engaged. While the Battle of Mosul was still being fought, 2Fury Paratroopers would often go out on 12-18 hour patrols. Their time off was spent either eating, sleeping, doing physical fitness training, or preparing for the next fight. Paratroopers and leaders ensure that they do routine things routinely, which means ensuring that the proper inspections and ramp briefs are done before each patrol. Another thing that has become routine is our Paratroopers reminiscing on life back home as they realize the small things that they took for granted. Constant dust storms blowing clouds of moon dust in the air, or the sensation of standing in front of a hair dryer set on high constantly blowing to your front while the sweat on your face combines to form a mud sweat combination. All things that 2Fury Paratroopers will not miss!



Alpha Company preparing for the next fight honing skills in forward reconnaissance through their UAV Skills on Sicily DZ

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This past month was monumental for its milestone celebrations. TF 2FURY started off by celebrating Independence Day. The 4th of July brought with it some comical relief as our British Operations SGM Hunt received a razzing from American Paratroopers. It was all in good fun as he participated in the events that SGT Smith helped set up. It was fitting that within the same month we celebrated our Independence, our Iraqi partners celebrated the liberation of Mosul. TF 2FURY was present through the decisive battle of Old Mosul watching firsthand as ISIS fighters surrendered under white flags while others fought to the bitter end. The entire task force was addressed on the evening of 9 July 2017 as the Government of Iraq declared the city of Mosul liberated. Highlighted during the address was the history made by every single Paratrooper and to never forget where they were when the Islamic State fell in Mosul. CPT Cavalier also celebrated his birthday on the 18th with a wall of care packages, taking the title from CPT Heether as the care package champion. Mail days are overly special and the easiest way to boost morale for Paratroopers; no matter the hour of night, when the mail rolls in, Paratroopers will easily stay up to receive and open their packages and letters from home.



LTC Browning and CSM Donaldson address TF 2FURY on 09 JULY after the announcement of Victory in Mosul by Iraqi Prime Minister

As we move to our final days in Iraq and the last days of summer break, there is a humbling appreciation of all our supporters across the world. TF 2Fury team is not unique in our struggles of uncertainty but there is something special about those that care for all these fine Paratroopers. Both CSM Donaldson and I cannot express enough our gratitude for the immense outpouring of support from families, friends, and senior command teams. Neither of us could have imagined this perfect blend of committed Paratroopers and leaders that seek out ways to better themselves on daily basis. To say that we are proud understates our conviction that TF 2Fury is among the very best and unmatched in performance. All The Way, Airborne, FURY FROM THE SKY!!



CPT Cavalier reenlists SPC Cizaukaus and CPT Morrow reenlists SPC Gonzales in front of the colors and the 2FURY coat of arms

As we near closer to the end, we'll highlight a staff section that has, since day one, been one of the most crucial entities of the advise, assist, accompany and enable mission. The S2 section is the intelligence team of the battalion. No other element is asked more of and required to be accurate all of the time. The S2 section OIC is CPT Jesse Coombs with his NCOIC SSG James Vaughn. Within the shop is LT Jon Wood, SGT Jeffrey Fischer, SPC Lukas Pickett, and SPC Hunter Clark. Their intelligence assists in the direction and guidance that our commanders use to make decisions and enable their Iraqi counterparts. Throughout the closure of the East Mosul fight, into and through West Mosul, up until the capitulation of ISIS inside the old city, the S2 staff have always been in the background. With the declaration of ISIS being defeated in Mosul, all eyes have shifted to the remaining pockets of ISIS resistance left in Iraq.



The S2 section poses in front of captured ISIS VBIEDs



Paratroopers taking a tour of the cattle and basin stock in Chihuahua, Mexico during SEDENA exchange



1LT Cody Brown (left) and CPT Chris Kust (right) endure the Camp Physical Fitness Assessment

Farewell

CPT Hannah Heether departed as the Battalion S2 OIC to move up to be a part of the Brigade S2 team.

Newcomers

CPT Jesse Coombs and his wife Shay. CPT Coombs joined Task Force 2FURY as the BN S2 OIC

CPT Christopher Kust and his wife Loren. CPT Kust joined Task Force 2FURY as the S3 Operation Officer

Family Readiness Group Events

Next Steering Committee
Meeting – August 15th

Mailing Address:
"Paratrooper Name"
"HHC/A Co/B Co/C Co/D Co", 2-508 PIR
TAA FILFAYL or TAA BAKIRA
APO AE 09316

Important note
Mail cutoff is 05AUG. Please do not send any mail after that date as it may not arrive in time before 2Fury's redeployment date.

Chaplain's Corner

"Among the many wild plants that decorate the Texas landscape is the agave. One of the largest varieties is the agave americanus, more commonly called the century plant. So named because it only blooms once—and while it doesn't actually take a hundred years, it usually takes twenty-five to thirty years. When the plant reaches its full height and has completely developed, it sends a massive stalk high into the air, often reaching forty feet, before bursting out an array of yellow flowers. The key to the flowering of the century plant is what is out of sight, underground in the roots.

The same thing is true in life. What is in our hearts will eventually show up on the outside. We may be able to conceal it for a time, but eventually our thoughts, attitudes, desires, and priorities will bear fruit in our lives. The key to bearing good fruit is not found in the fruit, but in the heart. Long before anything shows on the outside, the nature of the fruit is set by what is on the inside. That is why Solomon wrote, "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23). The visible fruit of our lives, whether good or bad, is determined by the inward life that others do not see.

-Chaplain Heneise



Chaplain Heneise delivers an invocation during All American Week



Find us on Facebook

1) Search for @2.508PIR or 2nd Battalion 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The Facebook page is updated frequently. Events and information specific to our Battalion are added to the page on a regular basis.

DON'T FORGET TO CHEK IT OUT!

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The page header includes the Facebook logo, the page name, and navigation options like Home, Find Friends, and Settings. The main content area features a large cover photo of a formation of parachutists in flight. Below the cover photo are interaction buttons for 'Liked', 'Following', and 'More', along with a 'Send Message' button. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with options like Home, About, Photos, Videos, Likes, Events, Notes, Posts, Services, Shop, and Manage Tabs, plus a 'Promote' button. The central feed area includes a 'Write something...' text box and several action tiles: 'Share a photo or video', 'Advertise your business', 'Get messages', 'Create an event', 'Create an offer', and 'Write a note'. Below these is a 'This Week' summary showing 12 Post Reach, 1 Send Message, and 36 Post Engagement. A 'Local Business' section indicates that 63,000 people can be reached within 3 miles. The right sidebar contains 'Page Tips', a search bar for posts on the page, and a list of recent activity including a 65% response rate, 6,062 likes, and 3,427 follows. At the bottom, there is a 'Photos' section with two images of soldiers and a welcome message for the page.